

August 10 2012

Pedro:

I was asked to forward the attached letter to you. Also, would you please post on ORVAC website.

Thanks

Lyle

Could someone forward this to the proper people within the NPS.

I am currently building a swamp buggy and it is near completion. One of the main reasons I was building this ORV was to access parts of the preserve that can not be accessed by foot in a day. I really planned on making day long trips into the Southwest corner of the Bear Island unit via the Blue Trail. I have heard that this trail is now closed. I could probably get there in a half day with a canoe or a poke boat but I have a rod in my right leg and have had surgery on my left knee. My legs are not what they once were and this makes dragging a canoe across portions of dry land hurt to say the least. I could not safely complete this trek in a day. Backcountry camping has long been prohibited in Bear island. I am not sure why. I don't know if the NPS felt that we had great access to all portions of the unit when the rule was made or if it had something to do with a couple of college kids and a panther study.

I would really like to see a push for the ability to backcountry camp in the areas that can not be accessed due to these recent trail closures. I would like to be able to access via canoe and stay for a night or two until these trail issues get worked out.

These closures basically closed large portions of Bear Island.

Thank You

David Severns